

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method for the synthesis of 3-carboxymethylsulfinyl-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone, comprising:

- a) providing:
 - i) 3-cyanomethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone; and
 - ii) a first acid;
- b) reacting said 3-cyanomethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone and said first acid under conditions such that 3-carboxymethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone is produced; and

~~The method of Claim 2 further comprising:-~~

- c) reacting said 3-carboxymethylthio-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone with;
 - i) a second acid; and
 - ii) a peroxide under conditions such that 3-carboxymethylsulfinyl-7-fluoro-1-methyl-4-quinolone is produced.